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## table of contents

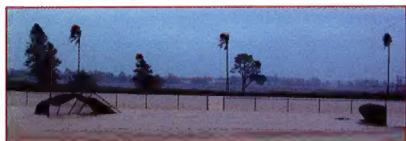


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6

### LOOK AHEAD TO 2005... *by Eric Wedge*

With a heightened sense of excitement and anticipation surrounding the 2005 Indians as they prepare to compete for the American League Central Division title, Tribe Skipper Eric Wedge outlines the plan in place to reach that goal.



24

### REBUILDING TOGETHER *by Steve Herrick*

The city of Winter Haven and Cleveland Indians organization teamed up to get the job done in record time. Dramatic photos illustrate the monumental task they faced.



Photo: Gregory Drezdzon

44

### Q & A SESSION WITH INDIANS

#### SKIPPER ERIC WEDGE *by Chuck Murr*

With the nucleus of a ballclub that improved greatly in 2004, the continued development of talented prospects and the addition of veteran free agents are reasons why Indians Manager Eric Wedge speaks passionately about his belief that the Indians will be ready to contend in 2005.

### Also Inside Game Face

2005 Cleveland Indians Spring Schedule .....16

2005 Cleveland Indians Season Schedule .....22

It's Slider Time .....20

Scorecard .....26

The Players .....38

The Coaches/Staff .....42





There is a heightened sense of excitement and anticipation surrounding our Ballclub as we prepare to compete for the American League Central Division title in 2005. I strongly believe we have added enough pieces and our core group of Major League players have matured to the point where we will be contending for the division title when the season opens in Chicago on April 4.

# A LOOK

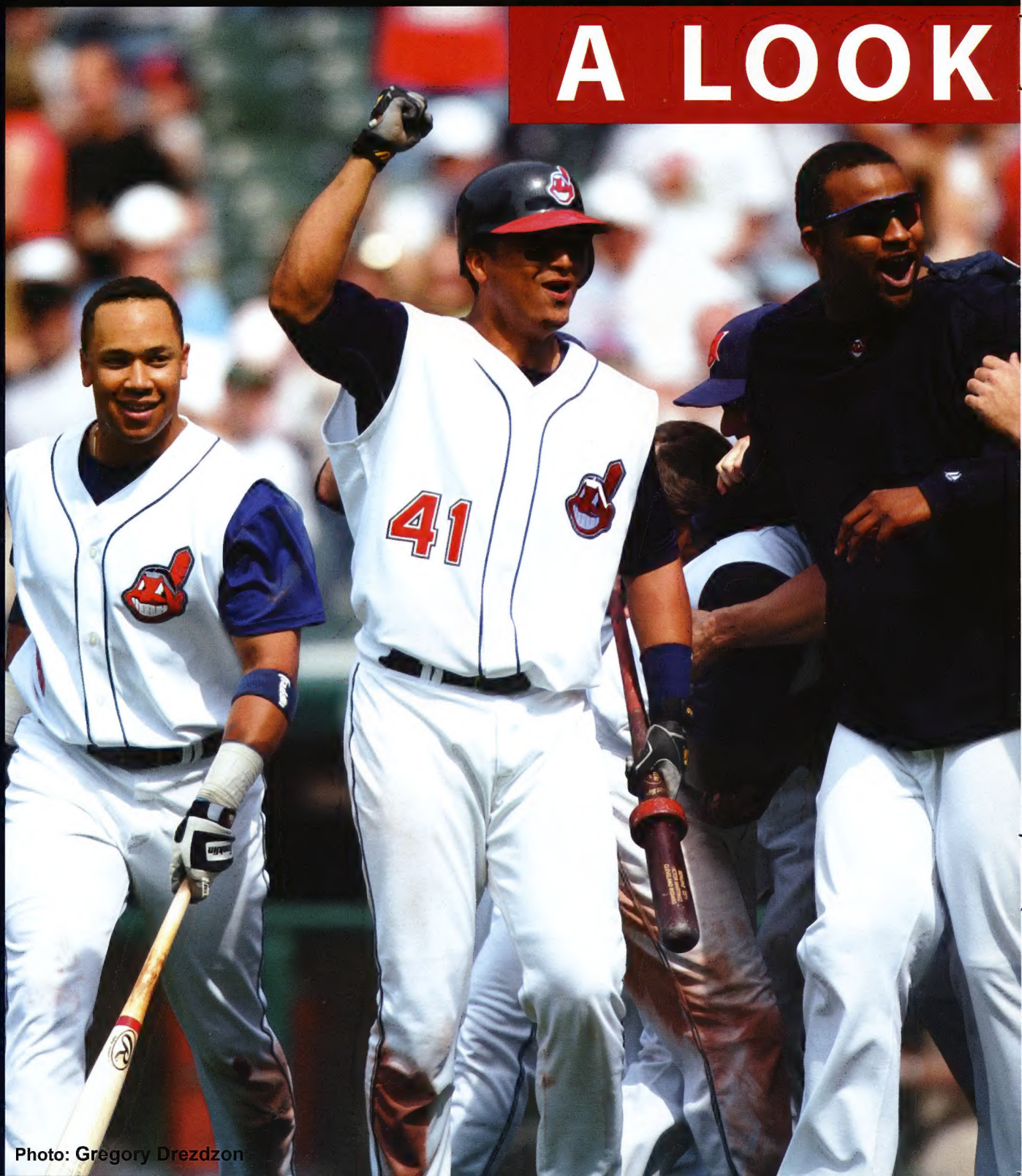
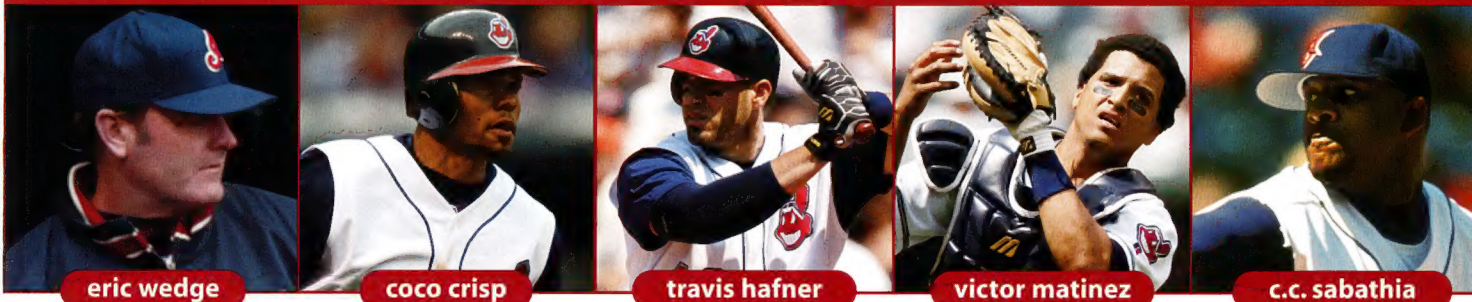


Photo: Gregory Drezdson



# AHEAD TO 2005



eric wedge

coco crisp

travis hafner

victor matinez

c.c. sabathia

The reason for this optimism is directly tied to the improved performance of the Club in 2004 along with the players **MARK SHAPIRO** and his staff retained and added for the upcoming season. I was extremely proud of the way our team performed last season. This was a Club that

*This "One Through Nine" offensive approach to scoring runs is something my coaching staff and I have been preaching to our hitters for the last few seasons and in 2004 we reaped the reward.*

started the season as the youngest in the American League. Our group matured quickly, earning five All-Star Game selections, and were just 1.0 game out of the American League Central Division lead in mid August. The season was an

important step for us in that we gained experience in a contending championship environment on our way to improving by 12 wins (from 68 to 80) from the 2003 to the 2004 season.

I thought offensively our Club performed exactly the way they were capable of performing, each hitter in our lineup contributed on a daily basis. As you see in the batting order breakdown chart, each and every spot in our order was productive with six of the nine spots recording 90 or more runs scored and 90+ RBI. This "One Through Nine" offensive approach to scoring runs is something my coaching staff and I have been preaching to our hitters for the last few seasons and in 2004 we reaped the reward. Two of the hitters (Matt Lawton and Omar Vizquel) that started at the top of the lineup have since departed, but I feel we have a collective group of capable hitters who can be just as productive at the top of the order. With hitters like OF **COCO CRISP** & 2B **RON BELLARD** manning the top of the order along with the continued maturation of our young hitters we should be able to plate similar run totals in 2005. We are also excited to add 3B **AARON BOONE** into our lineup as SS **JHONNY PERALTA** & SS **BRANDON PHILLIPS** will compete for the starting shortstop job in Spring Training.





ronnie belliard



ben broussard

Our offense was centered and will continue to evolve around the middle of our order. CA **VICTOR MARTINEZ** set a franchise record for RBI by a catcher (101) and drove in 108 on the year on his way to his first All-Star Game selection. Victor flourished once he was inserted into the cleanup spot in June and it enabled the hitters around

Victor to settle into their roles as well. He also did an outstanding job from a defensive and game-calling standpoint and has really developed a nice rapport with our pitching staff. DH/1B

**TRAVIS HAFNER** led the

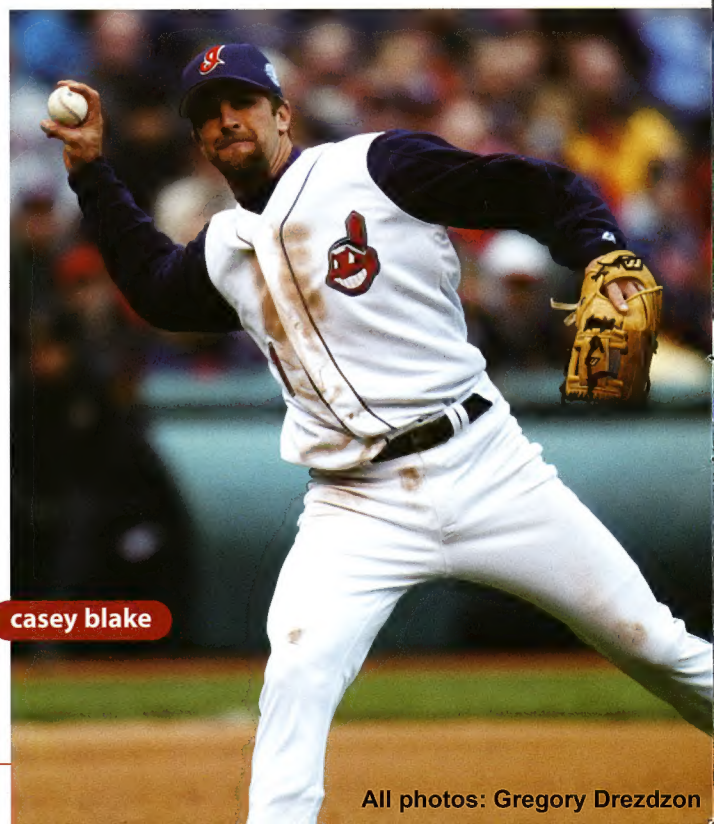
team with 109 RBI as only Manny Ramirez (1.009 to .993) had a higher on-base plus slugging percentage among American League hitters. 1B **BEN BROUSSARD** was one of our most productive hitters in the 2nd half as he led the AL in RBI (82) among hitters with 425 at-bats or less (Ben had 418).

3B **AARON BOONE** was signed in June and will be healthy from day one at the start of the season. Aaron is a solid, all-around hitter who will drive in runs and will provide us with a consistent glove at third base and a strong, veteran presence in the clubhouse. He is among one the most respected players in the game. 2B **RONNIE BELLIARD** was a catalyst all season for us after signing as a free

agent in the off-season. Ronnie is a hard-nosed ballplayer who impressed the rest of the league enough to earn his first All-Star Game selection in July. His career-high 48 doubles were 2nd in the AL as we look for Ronnie to repeat his 2004 performance. Rounding out the infield will be SS **JHONNY PERALTA** or SS **BRANDON PHILLIPS**.

Jhonny is coming off winning the MVP award in the International League after hitting .326 with 44 doubles, 15 HR & 86 RBI. Phillips also spent the year at Buffalo and hit over .300 in 135 games for the IL Champs.

*Ronnie is a hard-nosed ballplayer who impressed the rest of the league enough to earn his first All-Star Game selection in July.*

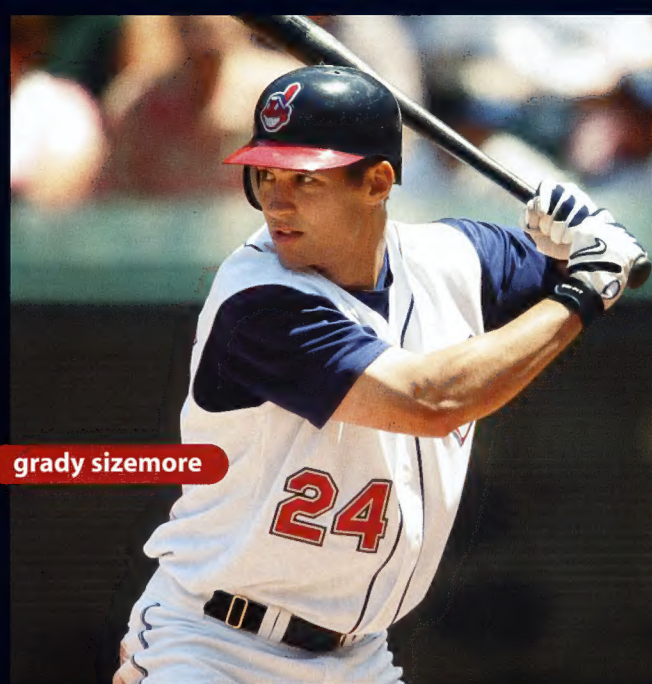


casey blake





josh bard



grady sizemore

Our outfield will consist of a group that includes **CASEY BLAKE, COCO CRISP, GRADY SIZEMORE**, the recently added **JUAN GONZALEZ & RYAN LUDWICK**. Blake will be moving to the outfield after spending the last two seasons as our starting third baseman and is coming off a year in which he hit 28 HR and drove in 88 runs. Casey is a consistent player and person and is a leader in our clubhouse. He will play one of the corner outfield positions. Coco hit

.318 in the second half (9th best in the AL) and set new career-highs in HR (15), RBI (71), and steals (20) while making some spectacular plays in the outfield. The 22-year-old Sizemore is one of the most exciting, up and coming players in the

league and we look forward to him being on the team as an everyday player. Gonzalez, if healthy, has a chance to be an impact hitter in our lineup. You may remember Juan from his days with the Tribe back in 2001 when he drove in 140 runs in 140 games. Juan will get a chance to make the Club in Spring Training. We are hoping for a healthy

Ryan Ludwick this year. Ryan has a power right-handed bat and could flourish in the role as the fourth outfielder. Look for JODY GERUT to return from his knee injury sometime in May or June.

This off-season one of our goals was to improve the depth of our bench. INF **JOSE HERNANDEZ** can play every position on the diamond outside of pitcher and catcher. Only Anaheim's Troy Glaus (18 HR, 207 AB) hit more homers in fewer at-bats last season than Jose's 13 with LA (211AB). Gold Glove-caliber INF **ALEX CORA** also comes over from LA and provides us a solid left-handed bat and can play shortstop and second base. In CA **JOSH BARD** we have one of the most valuable backup catchers in the game. His switch-hitting bat will be a very valuable commodity in the late innings and our pitchers enjoy throwing to him. Minor League invitees **MIKE KINKADE & JEFF LIEFER** each have big league experience and will receive a look.

I thought our pitching improved and was more consistent as the year went along. Our starting pitchers kept us in games for the entire season, compiling the 5th lowest starter ERA in the entire American League. With the addition of **KEVIN**

*Our starting pitchers kept us in games for the entire season, compiling the 5th lowest starter ERA in the entire American League.*





jake westbrook

*C.C. may not have been as consistent last year as he's previously been, but people forget he won 11 games and posted the 14th best ERA in the league. He is just 24 and already has 54 career wins.*

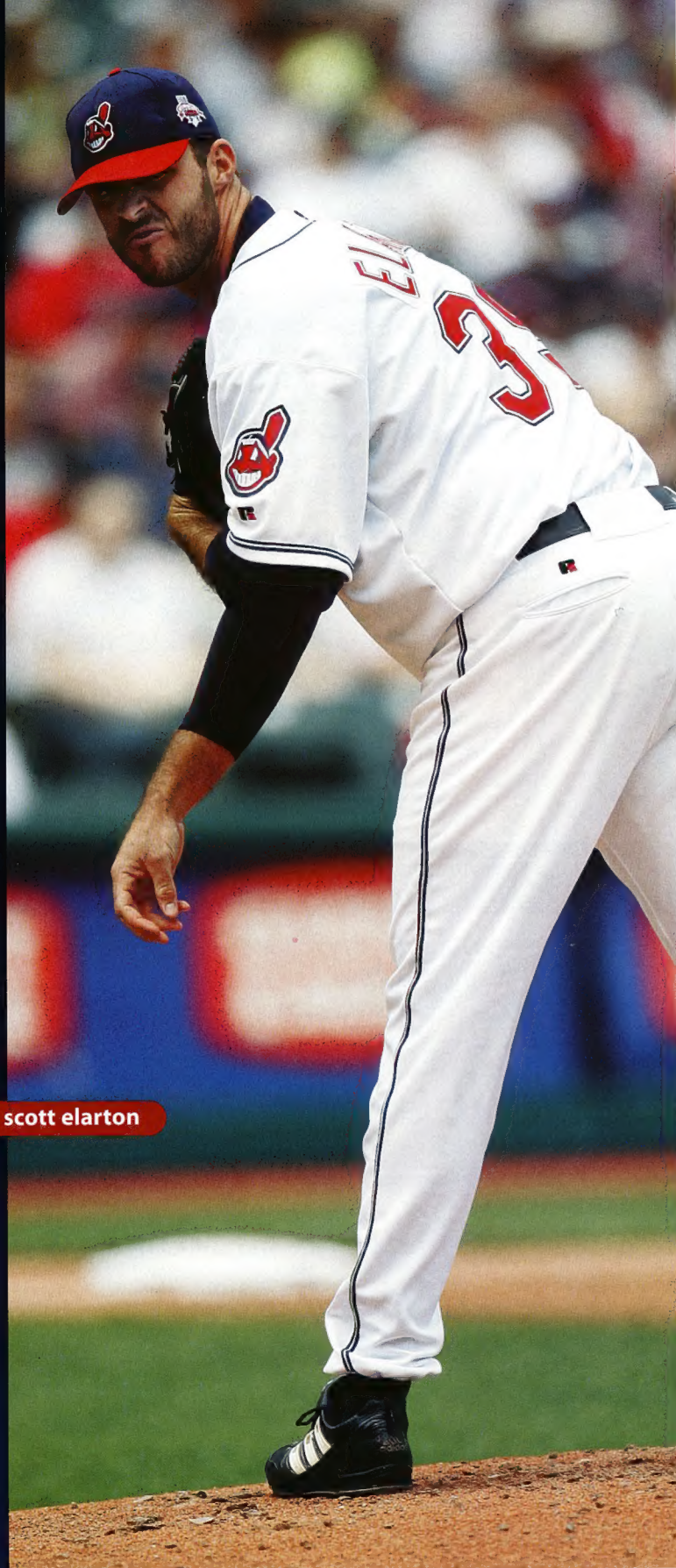
**MILLWOOD** I believe our rotation is now among the best in the division in terms of quality and depth. Our relievers progressed as the season went along and the return of a healthy **BOB WICKMAN** was the major reason. Having a healthy Wick for the second half last year enabled the rest of our 'pen to settle into more comfortable

roles and the results were tangible. Bob saved 13 of his 14 chances and the 'pen had only 9 blown saves in the second half compared to 19 before the break.

In Kevin Millwood we have acquired a pitcher who has won 14 or more games four times in his career

and has pitched extensively with success in the post season. His experience and leadership will be invaluable to our young staff as we look to get at least 30 starts out of him. **C.C. SABATHIA** will continue to be our number one starter. C.C. may not have been as consistent last year as he's previously been, but people forget he won 11 games and posted the 14th best ERA in the league. He is just 24 and already has 54 career wins. All **JAKE WESTBROOK** did last year was lead the team in wins (14), innings (215.2), and posted the 3rd lowest ERA in the entire American League on his way to an All-Star birth. **CLIFF LEE** also won 14 games in his first full season in the big leagues and despite hitting a lull in the middle of the season he rebounded to win his last three starts. **SCOTT ELARTON** rounds out the rotation. After being picked up from Colorado in June, Scott was one of our most effective pitchers in the





scott elarton

second half, tossing 91.2 innings while posting an ERA of 3.93 over his last 14 starts.

We will condition **JASON DAVIS** as a starter in Spring Training and barring injury to one of our aforementioned guys, he will begin the year in the middle of our bullpen. JD was excited about his relief role last September and was impressive after the conversion. **DENNY STARK** won 11 games with Colorado in 2002 was also invited to camp. **KYLE DENNEY, JEREMY GUTHRIE, FAUSTO CARMONA, BILLY TRABER, FRANCISCO CRUCETA, and JAKE DITTLER** more than likely will start the year in the Minor Leagues, but will be available to us when the need arises. **JASON STANFORD** is still rehabbing from left elbow surgery and should be ready by mid-season.

Bringing **BOB WICKMAN** back was an important step. Bob saved his last 12 straight chances and his return to form was instrumental in our contention in August. **BOB HOWRY & DAVID RISKE** will serve as our late-inning set-up guys. They were both extremely effective in that role last year. We will have a pair of experienced lefties in the bullpen this year in **SCOTT SAUERBECK & ARTHUR RHODES**.

Sauerbeck rehabbed from an arm injury all last year and tossed 10.0 scoreless innings in winter ball with 14 strikeouts. Rhodes has had a tremendous amount of success in a late-inning set-up role throughout his career. **JASON DAVIS, RAFAEL BETANCOURT, and MATT MILLER** are going to be solid contributors and will round out what I hope will be a deep bullpen. In addition, depth pitchers like **KAZ TADANO, FERNANDO CABRERA, CLIFF BARTOSH, BRIAN TALLEY, JAKE ROBBINS, STEVE WATKINS & CHAD ZERBE** will also be given a look.





eric wedge

OF **FRANKLIN GUTIERREZ**, RHP **ANDREW BROWN**, and CA/1B **RYAN GARKO** are players we have acquired through trades or the draft and will be in camp. These players are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of the talent we have amassed in our player development system through the hard work of **JOHN FARRELL & JOHN MIRABELLI**. Last year our Minor League teams won four league championships and posted a combined winning % of .540. Our strong player development system is going to allow the Cleveland Indians to sustain a competitive level of success for an extended period of time.

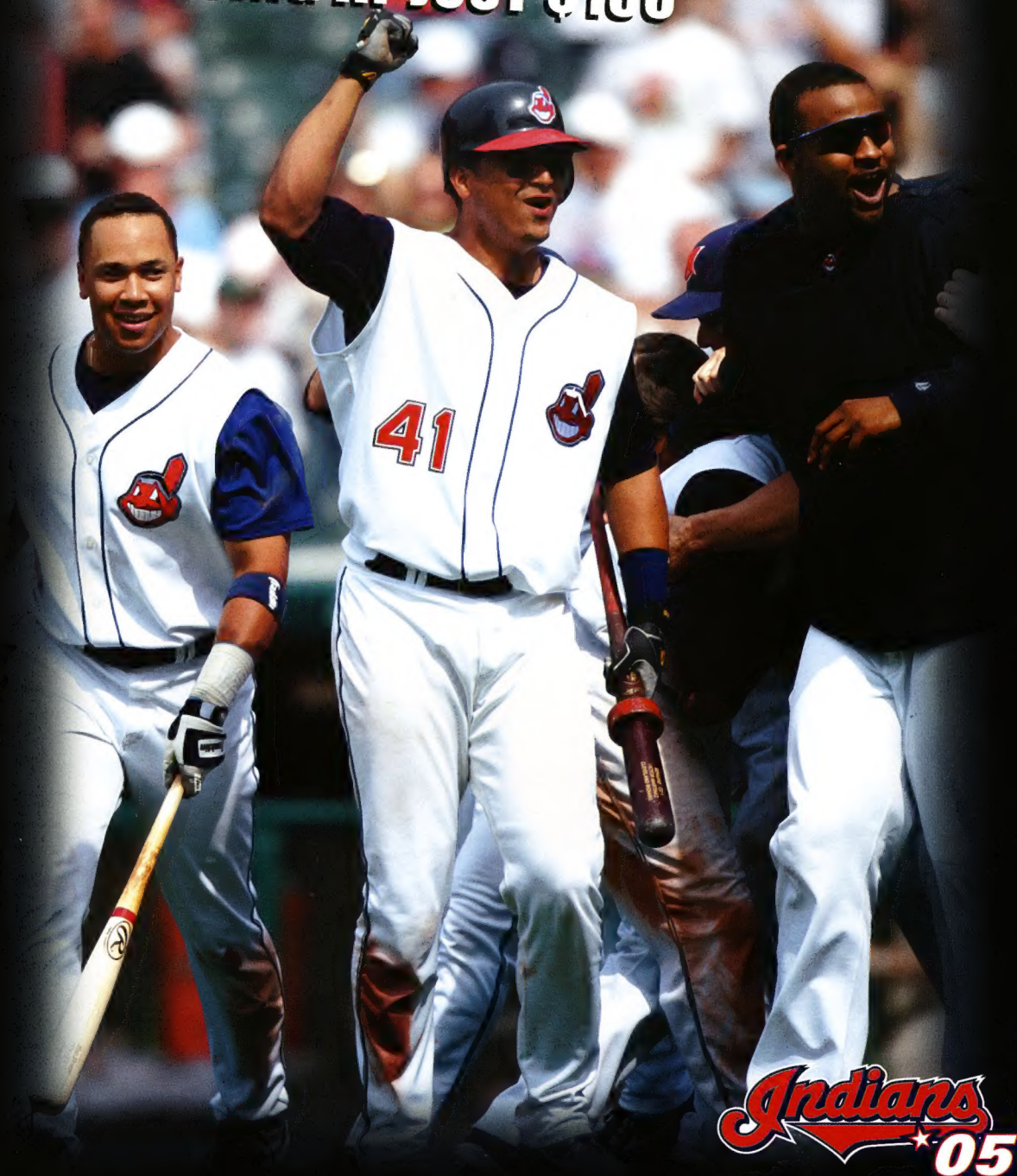
There is a core of talented, focused, hard-working players on this team. They are excited about their individual and team development. They are confident. And, most importantly, they understand and accept the challenge of what it will take to become a season-long contender for the American League Central Division title and a return to the post season.





# CLEVELAND INDIANS

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# the players



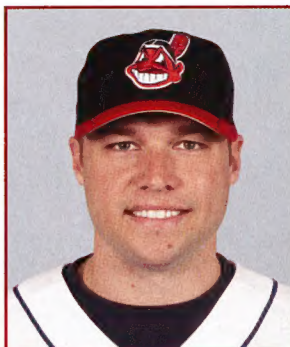
**32 Kazuhito Tadano**

Age: 24, born April 25, 1980  
in Tokyo, Japan  
Position: Pitcher  
B-T: R-R Ht: 6'0" Wt: 180



**30 Brian Tallet**

Age: 27, born Sept. 21, 1977  
in Midwest City, OK  
Position: Pitcher  
B-T: L-L Ht: 6'7" Wt: 220



**37 Jake Westbrook**

Age: 27, born Sept. 29,  
1977 in Athens, GA  
Position: Pitcher  
B-T: R-R Ht: 6'3" Wt: 200



**26 Bob Wickman**

Age: 36, born Feb. 6, 1969  
in Green Bay, WI  
Position: Pitcher  
B-T: R-R Ht: 6'1" Wt: 240



**22 ERIC WEDGE**

Managed his second full season for the Tribe in 2004. The Indians won 12 more games than in Wedge's first season (2003: 68-94, 4th place; 2004: 80-82, 3rd place) as Wedge led the Club to the 6th best improvement in terms of winning % in Major League Baseball in 2004...Finished 6th in the 2004 AL Manager of the Year voting...Wedge, 36, now owns a two-year Major League managerial record of 148-176 (.457).





Wedge



Photo: Gregory Drezdson